


**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**



Senior Deputy Director
for Health Care Finance

**Medical Assistance Program
Transmittal No: 03-16**

TO: All District of Columbia Medicaid Vision Care Providers

FROM:  Wanda R. Tucker
Interim Senior Deputy Director
Medical Assistance Administration

DATE: May 30, 2003

SUBJECT: Transition of D.C. Specific Local Codes to HIPAA Compliant Codes

The Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) is required to achieve compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act's (HIPAA) mandated transaction standards, code sets and identifiers by October 16, 2003.

MAA has devised many local codes, including the use of an attachment for billing lenses, for the District's Vision Care providers to accommodate special needs and circumstances, however, the HIPAA transactions, code sets and identifiers rules do not permit the use of local code values, including an attachment for billing lenses, after October 16, 2003. MAA has cross-walked all active Vision Care local codes to standard HCPC codes for billing examinations, frames, lenses fabrications, and fitting of spectacles.

To assist the District's Medicaid Vision Care providers with the transition to standard codes, MAA has attached an Addendum to the Vision Care provider billing manual that provides a cross-walk between the current local codes and standard codes and changes to the Vision Care Provider billing manual. Additionally, the proposed transition from local codes to standard codes will not change the current reimbursement payment(s) for the Vision Care providers for examination, frames, and fitting of spectacles. For the rate(s) of reimbursement for ophthalmic services, please refer to the attached addendum.

Please note that, effective July 31, 2003, MAA will discontinue the use of current local codes, including the use of attachment for billing lenses. Vision Care service claims submitted on or after August 1, 2003 should only use the standard codes.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this transmittal, please call MAA's Fiscal Agent, ACS State Healthcare's Provider Relations Inquiry Desk on (866) 752-9233.

Attachment: Crosswalk and Billing Manual Addendum – Vision Care